Remarks

The Applicants have amended the specification to place it into condition for allowance. Entry into the official file is respectfully requested.

The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 26, 27, 28-29, 31-33, 35, and 37-50 (to the extent that they depend from Claims 26 and 27). The Applicants also note with appreciation the indication of allowability of Claims 33, 38, 43 and 45 as they depend on Claim 25 if rewritten into independent form. Those claims have been rewritten as new Claims 51-54, respectively, but limited to dependency on Claim 25. Claims 33, 38, 43 and 45 have otherwise been amended to depend from Claims 26 or 27. Entry into the official file and confirmation of the indication of allowability is respectfully requested.

The Applicants have also added new Claim 55 which specifies the groups from the periodic table from which the transition metals may be found. Entry into the official file and consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

The Applicants have cancelled Claims 25, 30, 34 and 36.

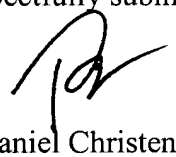
Claims 25, 28-29, 31-32, 37, 39, 41-42, and 46-50 (to the extent that they depend from Claim 25) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Horie or Konagaya in view of Schmidt and Ullmann's. The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot in view of the cancellation of Claim 25, cancellation of various others of those claims and amendment of the remaining claims to depend from Claims 26 or 27. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 35, 40 and 44 (to the extent that they depend from Claim 25) stand rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Horie or Konagaya in view of Schmidt, Ullmann's and Tsunekawa. The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot in view of the amendment of those claims to depend solely from Claims 26 or 27. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Applicants enclose in an Information Disclosure Statement, together with the usual PTO-1440 Form and the accompanying publications. The accompanying publications were cited in a corresponding Chinese application. Entry into the official file and consideration of the enclosed publications is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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